



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TUCSON MEN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION OF LARGE QUANTITY OF MARIJUANA

TUCSON, Ariz. – The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on April 26, 2004, Raul Garcia Lopez, DOB 3/14/50, of Tucson, Arizona was sentenced to 60 months in prison by United States District Judge David C. Bury in Tucson. Lopez's co-defendant, Hiram Gaxiola -Toysehua, DOB 5/20/82, an illegal alien residing in Tucson, had been sentenced to 37 months in prison by Judge Bury on December 23, 2003. Both sentences are the result of guilty pleas for Possession with Intent to Distribute 100 to 1,000 Kilograms of Marijuana, which the defendants had previously entered.

Both defendants were apprehended by Special Agents from the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Tucson on May 3, 2003. An investigation revealed that the defendants were in possession of 271 pounds of marijuana which had been transported from Mexico to the Lopez home. After their arrest, each defendant claimed to have been employed by the other upon a promise of several hundred dollars for the purpose of helping to transport the marijuana.

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Gaxiola-Toysehua was determined to be an illegal alien without any other criminal record in the United States. Lopez, a United States citizen, admitted to being previously convicted of a felony offense, Leaving the Scene of Accident with Injuries, for which he had received an earlier prison sentence.

The prosecution was handled by Richard I. Mesh, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-1134-TUC-DCB
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